

MEMORANDUM

To: Nova Scotia Laboratory Managers, IWK Health Centre Department of Pathology

From: Dr. Andrea Thoni – Section Head Immunology, Ms. Beverly Twohig – Esoteric Laboratory Supervisor

Date: February 1, 2016

Subject: **Guidelines for Patient Cryoglobulin Specimens**

Proper specimen collection is a critical aspect of Immunology testing. Improperly clotted specimens or insufficient sample volumes for testing can lead to erroneous results thus impacting treatment.

Specimen/information required

Please review the following guidelines for cryoglobulin testing:

- An acceptable sample for Immunology testing is serum. Please ensure that the sample is allowed to clot for **30 minutes before centrifuging and removing the serum**. If a sample is not allowed to clot properly fibrinogen could be present in the sample when tested. This compromises the accuracy and quality of the test results used to guide patient care.
- Two 10 ml Plain Red Tubes are required for testing. Double centrifugation should be used to avoid red blood cells being present in the sample. Please send collected serum at room temperature.
- **A minimum volume of 6 ml must** be sent to be acceptable for testing. Failure to send this amount will result in the test being cancelled.

Please feel free to contact the Immunology Laboratory at 902-473-6664 if you have any questions or concerns about this matter.

CC Dr. J.G. Heathcote, Dr. B. Nassar, Ms. Shauna Thompson, Mr. Randy Veinotte